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# PROTECTING ENDANGERED WILDLIFE

on your Southern National Forests

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**United States  
Department of  
Agriculture**



## **National Agricultural Library**

warbler are threatened because of man's manipulation of their environment.

National Forests provide habitat for many species and we intend to continue to maintain the wildlife populations to the limit of the habitat's ability to sustain them. Working with State Game and Fish Commissions and the U. S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, we are encouraging better law enforcement and better protection for all wildlife on the National Forests.

The list of rare and endangered species changes as more and more birds and animals become threatened. Recent additions to the list which are not included in this booklet are the Delmarva Peninsula fox squirrel, the Puerto Rican parrot, the bog turtle, the pine barrens tree frog, and the shortnose sturgeon.

We hope this booklet will help you to identify and protect any rare or endangered species you see on visits to the National Forests of the South. Use the card in the center of this brochure to tell us if you find an endangered species. Enjoy your visit and your National Forests.



*T. A. Schlapper*  
Regional Forester  
Southern Region

# IVORY-BILLED WOODPECKER

(*Campephilus p. principalis*)



Courtesy of U. S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries & Wildlife

*The Ivory-billed Woodpecker is a large, crow-sized bird that has been called a "disaster species" since it feeds on insects in dead or dying hardwood trees. It has a white bill and large patches of white on its wings. The male does all the excavating for the nest, chiseling into a limb or tree trunk for a*

*nesting spot. When climbing, the woodpecker uses his stiffened tail as a brace.*

## STATUS:

*Endangered. Loss of old growth bottomland hardwoods has made habitat scarce. The Ivory-Bill was reported seen in the Big Thicket Area of East Texas, the first sighting in Texas in 62 years.*

## RANGE ON SOUTHERN NATIONAL FORESTS:

*Possibly survives on the Sam Houston, Kisatchie, Apalachicola, and Francis Marion National Forests.*

# SOUTHERN BALD EAGLE

*(Haliaeetus l. leucocephalus)*

## STATUS

*Endangered because of loss of habitat, disturbances and possibly pesticide poisoning.*



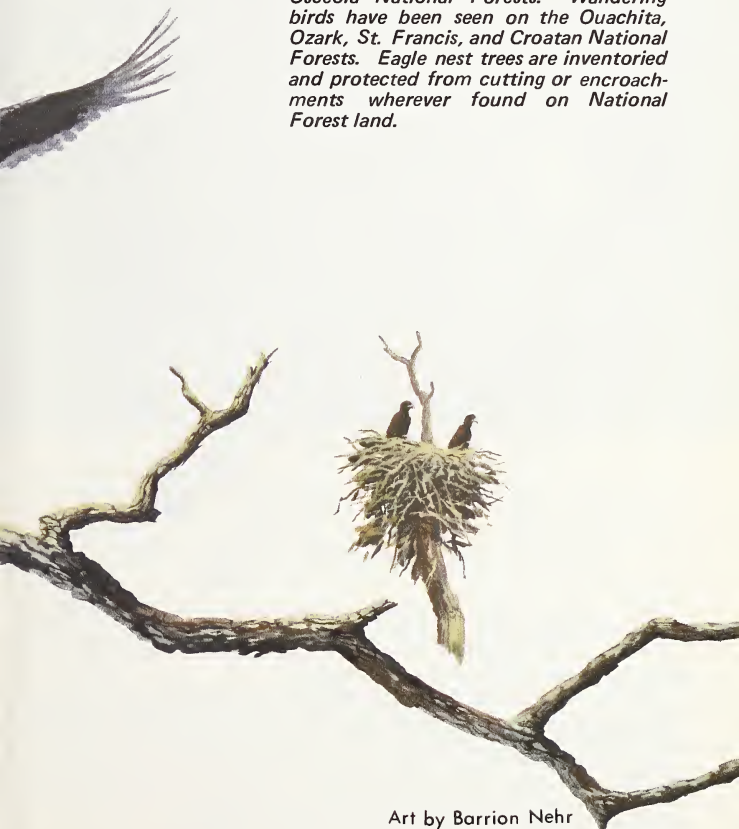


Since ancient times the eagle has been regarded as an emblem of might and courage. Poets have been entranced by its great power of vision, vast soaring heights and the wild grandeur of its abode.

The Southern Bald Eagle is a large, dark brown, hawk-like bird with white head and tail. Immature birds do not have the white head or tail. The Southern Bald Eagle nests from October through February and prefers to nest in longleaf pines, mangroves, and bald cypress.

#### **RANGE ON SOUTHERN NATIONAL FORESTS**

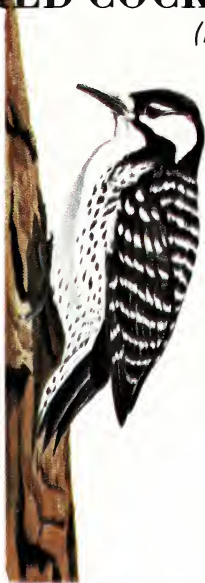
Nests on Francis Marion, Ocala, and Osceola National Forests. Wandering birds have been seen on the Ouachita, Ozark, St. Francis, and Croatan National Forests. Eagle nest trees are inventoried and protected from cutting or encroachments wherever found on National Forest land.



Art by Barrion Nehr

# RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER

(*Dendrocopos borealis*)



*Red-cockaded woodpeckers nest and rear their young in holes 8-12 inches deep, pecked in the trunks of old, diseased, pine trees. If a nest tree dies, they desert it for a living tree nearby.*

*Special areas are designated on National Forests to preserve habitat for the red-cockaded woodpecker. Recognized nest trees are saved and some aging pines not yet occupied are left close to nests for later use.*

**STATUS:** *Endangered. The threat to the red-cockaded woodpecker grows more acute daily because forestry practices require that sick and aging timber be cut. This tends to eliminate trees used for nesting.*

## RANGE ON SOUTHERN

**NATIONAL FORESTS:** *From Kentucky to Texas and Florida. Up the Atlantic coast to Virginia. It ranges all the Southeastern United States except the Appalachian Mountains.*

# BACHMAN'S WARBLER

(*Vermivora bachmanii*)



"By Arthur Singer from Birds of North America: (c) 1966 by Western Publishing Company, Inc. Reproduced by permission".

*This very tiny warbler once bred in river swamps of the South but now is so rare that nothing is known of its present breeding habits. It has a fine bill, yellow face and breast, and upper-parts of olive green. The male has a black crown and throat patches.*

**STATUS:** *Endangered. This is possibly due to the cutting of nearly all the virgin swamp or bottomland timber in the Southeast. The Forest Service will set aside certain areas to preserve habitat for the warbler if colonies are located.*

**RANGE ON SOUTHERN NATIONAL FORESTS:** *There have been unconfirmed reports of sightings recently in the hardwood swamps of the Francis Marion National Forest in South Carolina.*



# PEREGRINE FALCON

*(Falco peregrinus anatum)*



Kenneth Fink from National Audubon Society

The peregrine, also known as the duck hawk, is one of the fastest of birds, reaching speeds of 180 miles an hour in dives. It feeds on live prey which it kills by striking or catching in the air or by diving if the prey is on the ground. It is a gray bird, marked with "helmet and side burns." The breast is white or buff, streaked with black.

## STATUS

Rare. The continuing decline of this bird is attributed to indiscriminate shooting, molesting of nests, and pesticide poisoning.

## RANGE ON SOUTHERN NATIONAL FORESTS

Wintering birds are likely to be seen throughout the Region but it no longer breeds on the Southern National Forests.

# SANDHILL CRANES

## FLORIDA SANDHILL CRANE (*Grus canadensis pratensis*)

The Florida sandhill crane sticks close to home and does not migrate. The female lays two eggs a year and the parents lead the young away from the nest. They feed on frogs, crayfish and fish, snails, and insects.

It has gray plumage, long legs, neck, and bill. It is smaller and darker than the greater sandhill crane.

### STATUS

Rare. Conversion of wet prairies to agriculture threatens its habitat.

### RANGE ON SOUTHERN NATIONAL FORESTS

Occasional on wet prairies and nearly treeless savannas of Apalachicola and Osceola National Forests in Florida.



Allen D. Cruickshank  
from National  
Audubon Society

## GREATER SANDHILL CRANE (*Grus canadensis tabida*)

This bird is larger and paler in color than the Florida sandhill crane and it migrates at great heights from breeding grounds to the northwest to its wintering spots. Like the Florida sandhill crane, it also has long legs, neck, and bill and the female lays two eggs a year.

### STATUS

Rare. It is declining due to destruction of marsh nesting habitat in the northwestern United States and Canada.

### RANGE ON SOUTHERN NATIONAL FORESTS

Wintering birds are occasional on the National Forests in Florida where wet prairies and savannas are used.

# INDIANA BAT

*(Myotis sodalis)*



Alvin E. Staffan from National Audubon Society

Many bats have their own built in "radar" and can fly in a cave or a closed room without hitting anything. The supersonic cries of the bats reflect back from nearby objects and the bats can hear these reflected cries and thus avoid objects near them.

The Indiana bat is a medium size, grayish-chestnut bat, resembling the little brown bat.

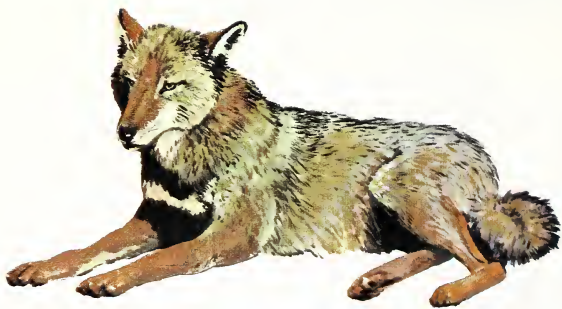
## STATUS

*Endangered.* Commercialization of caves, harassment, and more recreational use of caves threaten wintering colonies of bats.

## RANGE ON SOUTHERN NATIONAL FORESTS

*Summer:* Cavernous limestone areas of Arkansas, Kentucky, and Virginia, south to Florida.

*Winter:* Small colonies are known to winter in limestone caves on the Daniel Boone and Ozark National Forests, where provisions have been made to protect the species from disturbances.



## STATUS

*Endangered, if not actually extinct. It is disappearing due to loss of habitat, interbreeding with coyotes, heavy hunting and trapping pressure.*





# RED WOLF

*(Canis niger)*

*The wolf is a crafty animal with speed and endurance and can go several days without food. The red wolf trots or gallops with ears erect. It has gray to black color phases, tawny muzzle, ears, and flanks. Coyotes often are mistaken for wolves but the long, loud howl of the wolf is different from the staccato yapping of coyotes.*

## RANGE ON SOUTHERN NATIONAL FORESTS

*Presumed to occur in remote areas on the Ozark, Ouachita, Kisatchie, Sabine and Sam Houston National Forests. Predator control is not permitted on National Forest lands where red wolves are thought to survive.*





#### **RANGE ON SOUTHERN NATIONAL FORESTS**

*Survives on the Ocala and Apalachicola National Forests and is known on Everglades National Park. There are rumors that it still exists in Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, St. Marks and Lozahatchee Refuges.*

#### **STATUS**

*Endangered. There are several reasons for its decline - - loss of habitat, inability to adapt to civilization, and persecution by hunting and trapping. Although it is fully protected by Florida law, this big cat is constantly threatened by hunters and stockmen.*





STAMP

REGIONAL DIRECTOR

BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

PEACHTREE-SEVENTH BUILDING

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30323



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

What rare species did you see? \_\_\_\_\_

Where did you see it? \_\_\_\_\_

Nearest City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

National Forest \_\_\_\_\_

When did you see it? Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

In what kind of habitat did you see it?

Swamp ☐

Forest ☐

Fields ☐

Marsh ☐

River ☐

Other ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

*Man's increasing uses - - and misuses - - of his environment are endangering many forms of wildlife. Your observations of these species can be of help to us in assessing their population trends.*

*If you see one of the rare or endangered species described in this booklet, please fill out and mail the attached postcard.*

*Regional Director  
U. S. Bureau of Sports  
Fisheries and Wildlife*



# FLORIDA PANTHER

*(Felis concolor coryi)*

*The panther always has had a reputation as a crafty killer and its blood-curdling screams on a dark night seem to support its reputation. It is a large, long-tailed unspotted cat, ranging in weight from 100 to 225 pounds. A panther may be up to 7-½ feet long.*



# FLORIDA MANATEE

*(Trichechus manatus latirostris)*



Allen D. Cruickshank from National Audubon Society



*The manatee may have inspired the legend of the mermaids because of the human-like way the female holds a nursing pup. The manatee has no hind limbs but a flattened and rounded tail.*

*The manatee eats up to 100 pounds of seaweed and other food a day. It is helpless on land and must come to the surface of the water every 10 to 15 minutes to breathe.*

## STATUS

*Endangered. Wanton killing for sport and habitat losses are limiting factors.*

## RANGE ON SOUTHERN NATIONAL FORESTS

*Occasional on the Ocala National Forest in the St. Johns River but has been recorded on the Francis Marion National Forest.*



# ATLANTIC STURGEON

(*Acipenser oxyrinchus*)



U. S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries & Wildlife

*The Atlantic Sturgeon is a large fish (average adult 100 lbs.) , with a snout as long as its head.*

**STATUS:** *Rare. The decline is due to water pollution and obstructions in spawning streams.*

**RANGE ON SOUTHERN NATIONAL FORESTS:** *Presumed to occur in coastal rivers and estuaries of Croatan, Francis Marion, Ocala, Apalachicola, and DeSoto National Forests.*

# SUWANNEE BASS

(*Micropterus notius*)



U. S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries & Wildlife

*The Suwannee Bass is a small, two-pound, black bass colored with a purplish cast on the ventral surface of the throat, belly and gill covers. Curiously, it subsists almost entirely on crayfish which its mouth is especially modified to capture from among the aquatic plants of spring-fed streams.*

**STATUS:** *Rare. Its specialized adaptation to the springs and spring-fed streams of North Florida restricts this species to a very limited habitat.*

**RANGE ON SOUTHERN NATIONAL FORESTS:** *Presumed to occur in streams of the Osceola National Forest. Specimens have been taken recently from the Ochlochonee River north of the Apalachicola National Forest.*

# AMERICAN ALLIGATOR

*(Alligator mississippiensis)*

## STATUS

*Endangered. Poaching by hunters seeking commercial hides is the main threat but another factor is loss of habitat by drainage or impoundment of swamps and lowlands. Many so-called conservationists wear alligator belts, shoes and buckles, as well as carrying alligator handbags and luggage. All of this encourages the poachers. Prohibition of the interstate sale of alligator hides is seen as a practical way to curb poaching activities.*



*The alligator is a huge roughbacked reptile and although its food is mainly fish, it might include any animal that comes within reach of its jaws or powerful tail. In colder parts of its range it hibernates in winter.*

*Old time alligator hunters claim they can estimate the length of a 'gator from the width between the eyes reflecting in a flashlight's beam. Alligators dig 'gator holes in marshes to preserve open water during drought.*

## RANGE ON SOUTHERN NATIONAL FORESTS

*Known to occur on Coastal Plain Forests from the Croatan of North Carolina to Texas and Arkansas.*



# UNIQUE SPECIES

*The following species are not classified as Endangered or Rare but they have considerable local or national interest and special protection or management measures usually are necessary.*

*EASTERN BROWN PELICAN (Pelecanus occidentalis carolinensis)*

*FLORIDA SCRUB JAY (Aphelocoma c. coerulescens)*

*AMERICAN OSPREY (Pandion haliaetus carolinensis)*

*BLACK-CAPPED VIREO (Vireo atricapilla)*

*RAVEN (Corvus corax principalis)*

*LOUISIANA VOLE (Microtus ludovicianus)*

*EASTERN FOX SQUIRREL (Sciurus niger vulpinus)*

*FLORIDA WATER RAT (Neofiber alleni)*





# EASTERN BROWN PELICAN

*(Pelecanus occidentalis carolinensis)*

*Immature is uniformly dull brown above, lighter below.*

*An excellent flier, with powerful stroking flight with long glides. Flies with head drawn back to the shoulders.*

*Dives into water from heights of 30 ft. for small fish.*

## STATUS

*Undetermined.*

## RANGE ON SOUTHERN NATIONAL FORESTS

*Breeds on Atlantic and Gulf Coasts from North Carolina to Texas.*



- ⊙ REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS
- FOREST SUPERVISORS
- NATIONAL FOREST



# *National Forests* IN THE SOUTHERN REGION



The Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, is dedicated to the principle of multiple use management of the Nation's forest resources for sustained yields of wood, water, forage, wildlife, and recreation. Through forestry research, cooperation with the States and private forest owners, and management of the National Forests and National Grasslands, it strives — as directed by Congress — to provide increasingly greater service to a growing Nation.



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## IN MEMORIAM

*These extinct species were native to Southern National Forests - -*

*-eastern elk, eastern cougar, passenger pigeon, Carolina parrakeet, and Louisiana parrakeet.*

*Several more species, while not extinct, are gone from all or much of their natural range throughout the South. The Forest Service is dedicated to preserving the habitat of those vanishing forms which yet survive on National Forest lands.*

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**U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE—SOUTHERN REGION**